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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4066
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD PRIORITY 0102
RUCPDOC/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 000056

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES GROUND SWEDISH FLIGHTS TO
IRAQ

REF: STOCKHOLM 003

¶11. On January 24, the Swedish Transport Agency (STA) revoked the operating license of Nordic Airways, a carrier operating flights between Sweden and Iraq. The Stockholm District Court turned down a request by Nordic Airways, which had been operating with a temporary license, to extend the period it had agreed upon to reconstruct the company.

¶12. The STA stated it revoked Nordic Airways' license due to the carrier's long-running financial difficulties. STA Divisional manager Simon Posluk commented that Nordic Airways was "no longer able to fulfill its commitments and duties to its passengers." Posluk stated that an unknown number of passengers now risk being stranded in Iraq. Nordic Airways operated a flight to northern Iraq on January 20 and another to Baghdad on January 23.

SILVERMAN